

REMARKS

Claims 1-61 are pending in this application. Claims 1-30 are contained in the original letters patent, and claims 31-61 are newly-presented.

This Supplemental Preliminary Amendment makes the same changes as the Preliminary Amendment filed on May 6, 2004 (claims 5-7 are amended and, among new claims 31-61, claims 36-38 are revised), and differs in that the added claims are underlined, as explained in greater detail below.

By this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment claims 5-7 and 36-38 have been revised slightly to eliminate improper multiple dependencies (new claims 31-35 and 39-61 remain as in the previous Preliminary Amendment and are only reproduced herein for convenience)¹. Claims 1, 18, 19, 32 and 49 remain independent.

This Supplemental Preliminary Amendment has been filed pursuant to a telephone conference with Examiner Edward P. Westin, during which Mr. Westin pointed out the Preliminary Amendment filed on May 6, 2004, was deficient in that the newly-presented claims were not underlining. Such underlining has been added herein; the changes to the dependencies presented in the May 6, 2004, Preliminary Amendment also are included.

The present reissue application sets forth new claims 31-61 for examination. Various new claims are written in "means-plus-function" format, and have clear support in original letters patent 6,196,670. New claims 32-61 correspond to the limitations recited in

¹ Since this case is a reissue application, the claims have been amended using the procedure specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b), as is required by 37 C.F.R. 1.121(h) and M.P.E.P. § 1453. Only the revised claims have been presented, and all changes have been made with respect to the claims in the issued patent.

claims 1-17 and 19-30, respectively, of original U.S. letters patent no. 6,196,670, and find support in the portions of the specification corresponding thereto.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this application are respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be owed in connection with this Preliminary Amendment. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees now or hereafter due to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of this application is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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